



# OHIO CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NETWORK

*A Network of Center for Christian Virtue*

HB8 Proponent Testimony  
Senate Education Committee  
Troy McIntosh, Executive Director  
April 23, 2024

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Good afternoon Chair Brenner, Vice Chair O'Brien, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Education Committee. My name is Troy McIntosh and I serve as Executive Director of the Ohio Christian Education Network. I previously spent 24 years in school administration, including 16 years as a principal and 8 years at the superintendent level. I urge you today to support HB8, the Parents' Bill of Rights.

This bill would do each of the following:

- Ensure that any sexuality content is age-appropriate and developmentally appropriate;
- Provide parents with a notice about instructional materials that include sexuality content and an opportunity to request alternative instruction;
- Notify parents about school-provided healthcare services and the option to withhold consent or decline any specified service;
- Notify parents about changes to the health services or monitoring provided to their children by their school related to the student's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being, or the school's ability to provide a safe learning environment;
- Prohibit school personnel from encouraging a student to withhold from a parent information concerning the student's health or well-being, unless that disclosure would result in abuse, abandonment, or neglect
- Establish a process under which the district or school must resolve written concerns submitted by parents about topics addressed in the bill.

These protections provided by HB8 ought to be self-evident. In a free society in which parents are the primary providers for their children, it is the parents who ought to have the fundamental right to make decisions regarding the upbringing, care, and education of their child. This would seem to be a non-controversial idea that would engender broad bi-partisan support. Even in a broken world in which some children are not provided the inherent benefits of biological parents in their lives, this principle still serves the best interest of every child. The principles found in this bill also recognize that parents may form vital partnerships with other adults such as teachers or administrators for the benefit of their child. But in the end, it is not



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the prerogative of those partnering entities to supersede the rights of the parents except in the most egregious of circumstances.

The conflicts that we have seen play out so often at school board meetings flow directly from violations of this very concept. This bill represents a straightforward method of resolving these conflicts, which I think everyone would support.

Finally, none of these provisions are burdensome to schools. As someone who spent 24 years in that space, I can say that with confidence. And even if it were a minor burden, it is one which ought to be incumbent on those to take up to high calling of educating the children of others who live in their communities. The benefits of doing so far outweigh any cost.

Thank you for your consideration and I urge you support of The Parents' Bill of Rights.